



# Whiskey Island Back Barrier Marsh Creation (TE-50)

## Project Status

**Approved Date:** 2004      **Project Area:** 1,038 acres  
**Approved Funds:** \$2.8 M      **Total Est. Cost:** \$21.8 M  
**Net Benefit After 20 Years:** 272 acres  
**Status:** Engineering and Design  
**Project Type:** Barrier Island Restoration/Marsh Creation

## Location

Whiskey Island, which is one of five islands that make up the Isles Dernieres barrier island chain, is located 18 miles southwest of Cocodrie in Terrebonne Parish, Louisiana. The island is surrounded by Coupe Colin to the west, Whiskey Pass to the east, Lake Peltó, Caillou Boca, and Caillou Bay to the north, and the Gulf of Mexico to the south.

## Problems

Gulfside and bayside erosion has resulted in the narrowing of Whiskey Island (and the entire Isles Dernieres chain) as the two shorelines migrate toward each other, resulting in a 68% decrease in average width for the Isles Dernieres. Within 100 years, the entire subaerial portion of the Isles Dernieres barrier island system is expected to disappear except for small land fragments associated with the western end of Whiskey Island and the eastern end of East Island; however, with some estimates, the Isles Dernieres are projected to disappear much earlier, in 2017. Other predictions suggest that, without restoration, the island will become subaqueous sand shoals between 2007 and 2019.

Another CWPPRA restoration project, Whiskey Island Restoration (TE-27) - which included dredging and placement of dredge material, vegetative planting, and sand fencing - was completed there in June 2000.



In this aerial view of Whiskey Island facing north, the island's Gulf of Mexico shoreline, as well as its back barrier marsh, is visible.

## Restoration Strategy

The goal of this project is to increase the longevity of the previously restored and natural portions of the island by increasing the island's width. Increasing the island's width will help to retain sand volume and elevation. Approximately 300 acres of intertidal, back barrier marsh will be created by semiconfined disposal and placement of dredged material. The dredged material is expected to come from a sediment source near the island. A minimum of six 1-acre tidal ponds and 10,000 feet of tidal creeks will be constructed. The area will be planted with smooth cordgrass (*Spartina alterniflora*), a native marsh plant valued for its ability to colonize and protect fragile marsh soil.

## Progress to Date

The Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Task Force approved funding for engineering and design at the January 2004 Task Force meeting.

This project is on Priority Project List 13.

For more project information, please contact:

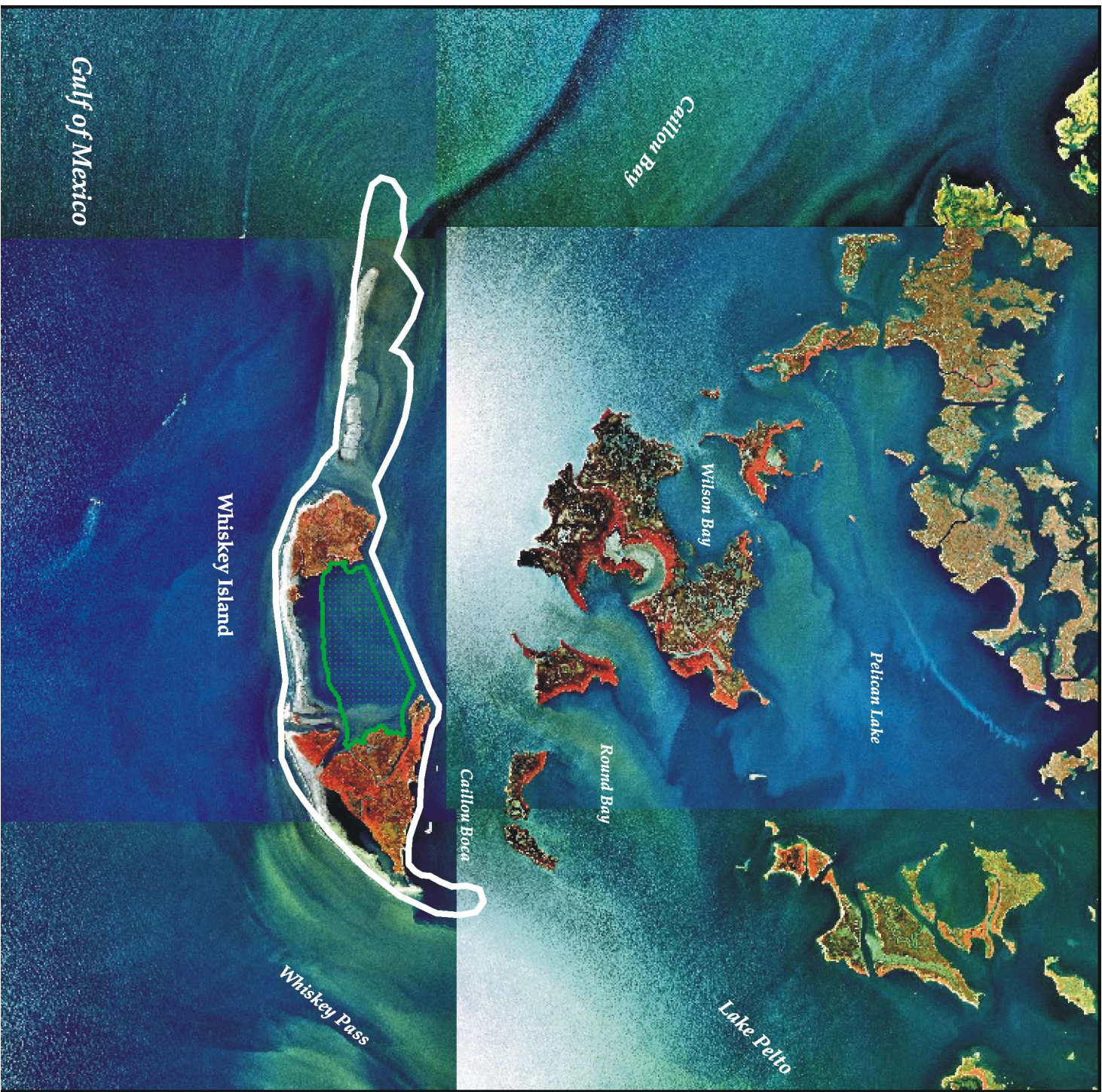


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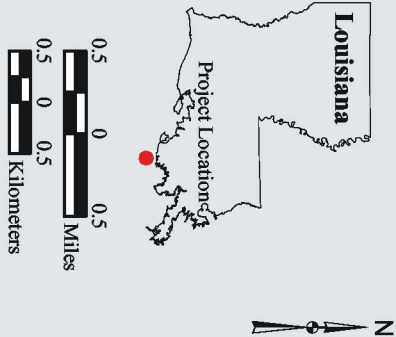




# Whiskey Island Back Barrier Marsh Creation (TF-50)

-  Marsh Creation\*
-  Project Boundary

\*denotes proposed features



Map Produced By:  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
U.S. Geological Survey  
National Wetlands Research Center  
Coastal Restoration Field Station  
Background Imagery:  
1998 Digital Orthophoto Quarter Quadrangle  
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